

HB 1566 -- Teacher Certification

Sponsor or Co-Sponsors: Copenhaver, Haywood, Fraser, Hagan-Harrell

Same as or similar to: HB 795 Year: 2001

Emergency Clause: or Effective Date of:

Use Summary For: Version:, Year:,

Verbatim:

Modify above as follows:

New summary as follows: This bill extensively revises the statutes concerning teacher certification, removing the State Board of Education's power to license teachers and placing it in a newly created Board of Professional Educators' Standards and Practices within the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The 19-member board will consist of 9 teachers, 3 college faculty from teacher education programs, 3 school administrators, one district school board member, one public representative, and the commissioners of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Higher Education, ex officio. The Governor will appoint members for 4-year terms; the bill details procedures for soliciting nominations as well as organizational procedures. The board will have an executive director.

The bill recognizes teaching as a profession and sets out the conditions for licensure, which include age, health, and character requirements. Existing administrative rules on certification are repealed 60 days after the effective date of

the bill, and a separate procedure for enacting board rules is established. Existing licenses are continued. Causes for denial or revocation are established, and procedures by which the board may initiate disciplinary action are provided. The Administrative Hearing Commission will hold hearings on disciplinary actions. Applicants denied licenses are entitled to a hearing before the whole board. Teaching without a valid license is a class A misdemeanor; using fraud to secure a license is a class D felony.

The board also has exclusive authority to approve teacher preparation programs; institutions whose programs are denied approval have a right to appeal the denial. Certain board actions may be delegated to one or more members or staff. Fees associated with certification must be set to cover the cost of administering the certification statutes and will be deposited in the Professional Educators' Standards and Practices Board Fund.

Becky